(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government for the protection of interests of the pilots and also Government owned airlines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) An expenditure of Rs. 29.14 crore was incurred during 2002-03, Rs. 29.69 crores during 2003-04, Rs. 37.47 crores during 2004-05 and Rs. 25.21 crores during April-December, 2005 by Indian Arilines Limited whereas Air India Limited has spent Rs. 14 crores during 2003, Rs. 20 crores during 2004 and Rs. 9 crores during 2005 on training of its pilots.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. During the last three years there has been no significant exodus of pilots from Indian Airlines and Air India. However, 79 Pilots of Alliance Air and 16 Pilots of Air India Express have resigned during the last three years.

(d) Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued a Civil Aviation Requirement (Section 7 Series "X" Part !) in September, 2005 making it mandatory for pilots to give a notice of six months to the employer. Both Air India and Indian Airlines insist on bank guarantee/surety bond from the pilots to cover the cost of training and also retain them in the organisation.

Besides, providing job security, both Air India and Indian Airlines have also taken steps to improve the service conditions of the pilots on regular basis in order to keep it at a competitive level in the market.

Guidelines on Helicopter operations

2251. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that revised comprehensive guidelines have been issued recently to tighten the norms for helicopter operations in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, especially those relating to assessment of weather forecasting in the hilly areas where weather can change very fast?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the year 2005, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued Civil Aviation Requirements Section 7, Series B, Part X to XV for safe operations of helicopters. Further Air Safety Circular No. 8 of 2005

has also been issued by DGCA on 01.08.2005 for safe opertions of helicopter in the hilly area.

Sanction of a new modern airport for Chennai

2252. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a move for sanction of a new Modern International Airport for Chennai as has been done for Bangalore in the wake of heavy spurt and steep increase of traffic in Chennai due to the growth of information technology, the proposal of deverting all flights bound for South-East Asian countries through Chennai Airport and the need of patients from Asian countries for fairly cheap and qualitative treatment at Chennai; and

(b) whether the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has already raked up a proposal for a new airport at the cost of around Rs. 1000 crores in an extent of 2000 acres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) An 'in principle' decision has been taken to initiate the process of modernization of Chennai Airport.

New International airports

2253. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of airports which were given the status of international airports during the last three years;

(b) whether Government propose to declare some more airports as international airports; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) During the last three years *i.e.* 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06, the airports at Amritsar, Nagpur, Srinagar, Jaipur and Calicut have been declared as international airports.

(b) and (c) The essential parameters to consider declaring of an airport as international *inter-alia* include international sector traffic potential, requirements of airlines, availability of international cargo complex, adequate size of terminal building, night landing facilities, landing facilities, navigational aids, customs , immigration, health and plant quarantine etc.